



Bharath Gyan™



Indo - Japan

A Connect over Millennia



D.K. Hari
D.K. Hema Hari



Bharath Gyan®

INDO - JAPAN A Connect Over Millennia

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D.K. HEMA HARI

Bharath Gyan Series

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Benedictory Note



H.H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
Founder - The Art of Living

The two oldest civilizations, Japan and India, share many a common values.

Here in this small booklet, authors D.K.Hari and D.K.Hema Hari have brought out some very interesting facts in just 24 hours.

Realizing the oneness of people around the globe is the way forward for world peace.

07 August, 2014
Bengaluru, India.

About Bharath Gyan

Bharath Gyan has been collating specific, scientific knowledge of India, using ancient knowledge sources and modern scientific tools and methods, from a present day perspective and relevance.

The knowledge of the Indian civilization is available scattered in various forms – books, manuscripts, oral tradition amongst scholars, various art forms, customs and traditions of the land.

The current generation is facing a barrier in reaching out to this knowledge due to the limited access to such sources. The ancient languages, the style of expression used and their approach to the subjects which differ from the present way of expression, pose a challenge too.

In Bharath Gyan, as part of our quest for the specific scientific knowledge and practices of the civilization, we have come across many stories, ideas, views, theories, factual events and statements.

With the help of traditional scholars with a modern bent of mind and modern scientists open to traditional knowledge systems, we have endeavoured to carefully sift through all this



data, with an inquisitive, rational, logical and scientific mind to understand the knowledge from a fresh interdisciplinary perspective. The outcome of this analysis is the compilation of Bharath Gyan.

Over 15 years, spanning across 108 subjects, the independent facts and data collated, self validate and corroborate each other beautifully in this compilation, as pieces of a jigsaw.

Bharath Gyan, a not for profit, research organization, is in the process of bringing this knowledge out through far reaching and engaging mediums so that it can be easily understood and enjoyed by all across the world.

The objective is to bring out this knowledge and wisdom, with relevance to current day topics of interest, trials and tribulations faced by Indians as well as the world.

Besides filling the readers with wonder at the not-so-commonly known scientific facets of our ancient civilization, it is hoped that this knowledge and approach of the ancients will kindle or aid future research for the benefit of science and mankind.

Can we make the past converge with the present for the future?

Ours is perhaps not the first effort in this direction, neither should it be the last ...

As one of the initiatives, Bharath Gyan, encouraged by His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, has entered into an alliance with the Art of Living group to jointly repurpose the compiled knowledge into various knowledge products for dissemination to the community at large.

Our website www.bharathgyan.com provides more insights into our activities.

About Authors



D.K.Hari and D.K.Hema Hari
Founders, Bharath Gyan

D.K.Hari and D.K.Hema Hari are founders of Bharath Gyan.

This husband - wife duo of Management and IT professionals, who have turned into research collators, have authored 12 books, many articles and a host of short films

to present the knowledge of India, its culture, its traditions, its global ties - in short, the ethos of India from an Indian perspective.

They give talks and are also active on social media.

Tracing The Connect

The relation between India and Japanese goes back by millennia. Both these civilizations have intermingled and left their stamp on each other over time.

Needless to say that, Buddhism has been the most visible and traceable thread of connect between these two lands.

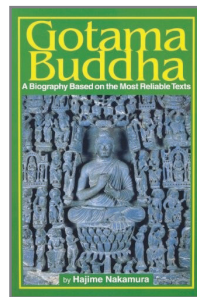
HAJIME NAKAMURA

According to the famous Japanese academic of Veda and Buddhism, Hajime Nakamura, India had a great influence on Japanese culture. In his book, ‘Gotama Buddha’, he says,

“Without Indian influence, Japanese culture would not be what it is today.”



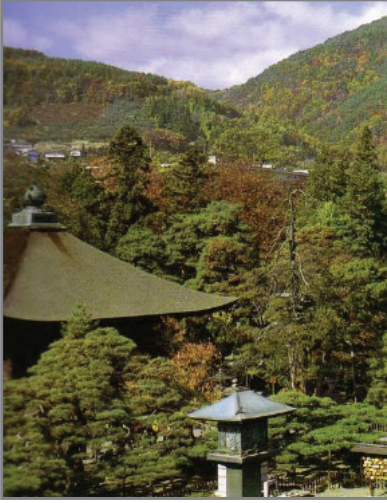
Hajime Nakamura



**The Book
Gotama Buddha**

TRAVEL OF INDIAN THOUGHT TO JAPAN

The first *sanskrit* text in Brahmi script arrived in Japan in 552 CE, which is now preserved in the Sutra godown of Zenkouji temple.



Kyozo, The Sutra Repository, Zenkouji

In 607 CE, Prince Shotoku began lecturing in *Sanskrit* at Nara College.



Prince Shotoku



Buddha Shrine at Nara College

In 736 CE, Bodhisena, arrived in Japan and taught in Nara College.



Bodhisena



Nara College

ZEN BUDDHISM

In the medieval period, around 760 CE, there was a great Buddhist monk by the name Bodhidharma, Daruma as he was called in Japan, who travelled from Kanchipuram in South India, over the seas, eastwards taking with him the teachings of Buddha and meditation, *dhyana*. The *dhyana* he took with him came to be called *Chan* and then *Zen* when it travelled to Japan.

His teaching reached Japan through Master Hui Neng.



Bodhidharma



Master Hui Neng



Bodhidharma Temple, Mount Song

Dhyanam → Dhyān → Chan → Zen

From this was born Zen Buddhism, a very happening thought of the modern world.

Zen Buddhism has its roots in India.

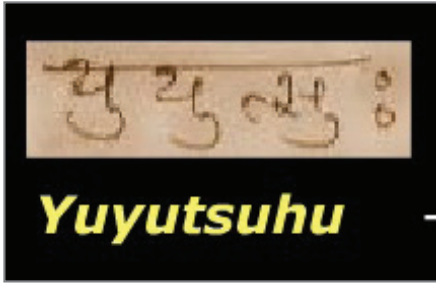
JUJUTSU

Bodhidharma, before he left the shores of India, was an exponent of martial arts and also took this knowledge of martial arts with him.

Along with Buddhism and *Dhyana*, he also imparted martial arts to the monks he came across wherever he went. A combination of these 3, Buddhism, *Dhyana* and Martial arts, became a regimen for Buddhist monks.

The purpose of these martial arts was to keep the monks fighting fit. These martial arts, a blend of both the power of the mind and the body, developed into a family of defence cum sport activity.

The name Jujutsu for the famous Japanese Martial Art, has its origins in the *Sanskrit* word *Yuyutsuhu*, which means, “*desire, mentality to fight*”. The word *Yuyutsuhu* has the same root as the *Sanskrit* word *Yuddha* for fight.



Yuyutsuhu being practiced

The martial arts skill and the names for a few of them, thus trace their origin to Bodhidharma and his land, India.

SARASVATI

In India, the Divine pair, Brahma and His consort Sarasvati, represent the divine forces in play in the growth, expansion and evolution of the Universe. This aspect of the growth of the Universe is thus steeped with the knowledge of all that has transpired since the moment of Creation and continues to drive the further evolution of the Universe. This driving force of knowledge is called Sarasvati, as it is a knowledge that continues to flow through the expanse of the cosmos, gracefully and incessantly like waves. *Saras* means gracefully flowing.

A similar vein of thought seems to have been held by the civilization of Japan as is evidenced by the presence of a goddess like Sarasvati in Japan.

Sarasvati and Her forms are popular divinities in the land of Japan. There are 131 temples of Sarasvati in the city of Tokyo alone as recorded in the census of 1832. This shows the prevalence of Sarasvati worship as an intrinsic ethos of Japanese culture.

In Japan, Sarasvati is known by different names.

Names of Sarasvati	Invoked for
Benzaiten	Talent and wealth
Myoten	Sweet voice
Daiben, Dai Benzaiten	Intelligence
Sama Benzamini	Inspirer to poets and artistes. <i>Sama</i> in <i>Samskrt</i> means equilibrium, balanced, state of mind required for poets.
Benteu, Benten	Speech with a flute in her hands
Krodha Benzaiten	Violent form worshipped by generals before going to war. <i>Krodha</i> in <i>Samskrt</i> means anger, fierce.



Benzaiten shrine, Inokashira Park, Tokyo



A Saravati Temple, Japan



A Statue of Goddess Benzaiten

Sarasvati is associated in Japanese culture too with different faculties of arts and knowledge such as music, sweet voice, beauty, happiness, eloquence, wisdom, wealth, fortune and as one who confers strength on warriors.

GANESHA

Ganesh is another Indian Divinity who has left His stamp on the Japanese culture. There are many statues of Ganesh in the country, the most popular one being the sculpture of Kangiten Ganesha. Here we see Shiva resting on the lap of His son Ganesha.

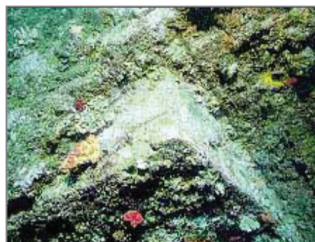


Kangiten Ganesha, Japan

PYRAMID

There are pyramids on land at Egypt, Central America, Sudan, Bosnia, Turkey, Indonesia, Teneriffe Islands, Iraq and many other places, worldover.

Japan too has a pyramid, a large one at that, but underwater, 40 feet below the sea.



Japan's Underwater Pyramid off the coast of Yonaguni Jima Island

What do all these pyramids have in common?

A common Name but not the name “pyramid” though.

Pyramid is a Greek word. It comes from *Pyre* and *Mid* meaning “there is fire in the middle”. This word is of recent antiquity, made popular by the Greek Egyptologists as they theorized that pyramids focus the energies to the middle and hence called them *Pyramid*.

The original word of the Egyptian pyramids in the Egyptian Pharonic language is *Mru*.

Down south, upstream of the river Nile, in Sudan, Khartoum, in the local language, Pyramids are called *Meroe*.

Herein, lies the key to understanding Pyramids.

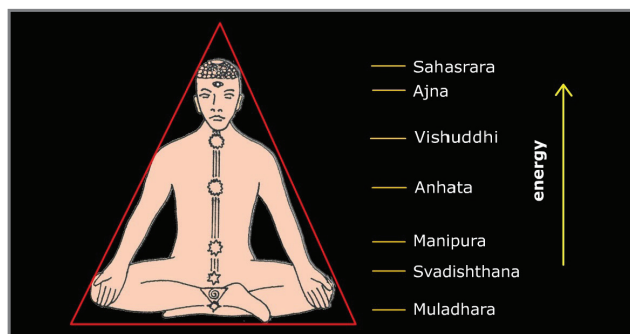
While what the pyramids were called in many other places, in their tongues, in their times, is now lost in time, in India, a pyramid has been traditionally called a *Meru* and for the good vibes it can bring out, it is called *Sumeru*, the benevolent one in nature. The prefix *Su* means well, good.

India too has its share of pyramids, *Meru* – some are manmade structures, some are natural formations and some are ritualistic objects.

Besides these *Meru* formations, in India there are plenty of literature on *Meru* too which have come down through the Millennia.

Veda and *Purana* discuss the *Meru*.

In *Yogasana*, there are postures which are named after *Meru*.



Meru Danda, a Diagram

In many a temple and house, *Puja* is done for different forms of *Meru*.



Meru being worshipped in homes and temples

Meru concept has also been used to describe natural sequences in mathematics.

While there are Pyramids that stand out as hardware all over the world, the purpose as to why they were built, the meaning, the reasoning, the tradition etc. have all been lost elsewhere in the world due to a lack of continuity in the civilizations.

In India though, the structures, literature, verses, maths based on *Meru*, are still available and in use.

With so many aspects of a pyramid available and still alive and also the fact that pyramids in many parts of the world are referred to by words similar to *Meru*, it is highly possible that the principle underlying these lofty structures of the world could well be found in India.

Put in a present way of expression,

“The Hardware is strewn all over the world. The Software is available in India.”

The key to understanding this Hardware called Pyramid, lies in the complementing Software on Meru to be found in India.

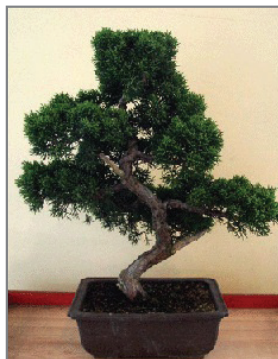
This is an area of joint research, actually search, that the world needs to take up and Japan and India can be forerunners in initiating this pursuit both on land and sea.

BONSAI

The term and practice of Bonsai have its roots in India.

In India, the science of dwarfing a tree is called *Vamanatanu Vrکشadi Vidya*.

This is practiced in *Vrksha Ayurveda*, *Vrksha* meaning plants, trees and *Ayurveda* is the Science of Medicine. Ancient Ayurvedic physicians carried back shoots from medicinal trees from the Himalaya and grew them in miniature forms in pots by trimming and cutting back the roots.



Punsai - Bonsai

This art travelled to Japan and came to be known as Bonsai from the Tamil language word *Punsai*, meaning to make small.

3 INDIANS REVERED BY JAPANESE

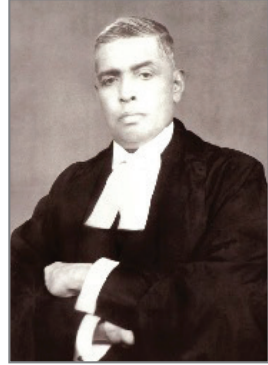
The three Indians whom the Japanese revere the most are Lord Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi and Justice Radha Binod Pal.



Gautama Buddha



Mahatma Gandhi



Radha Binod Pal

While the reasons why the Japanese hold Gautam Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi in high esteem are obvious, not many, especially in India are aware of why Justice Radha Binod Pal is held in high esteem by the Japanese.

Justice Radha Binod Pal

Justice Radha Binod Pal was the War Crimes Tribunal Judge for World War - 2. In his judgement, he gave “Not Guilty” verdict to the Japanese. He was the ‘lone dissenting voice’.



Justice Radha Binod Pal

Justice Radha Binod Pal referred to trial as, “a sham employment of the legal process for the satisfaction of a thirst for revenge”.



War Crimes Tribunal Trial

While Justice Radha Binod Pal fully acknowledged Japan’s war atrocities including the Nanjing massacre of 1931, he said they were covered in the class B & C class, and not in this War Criminal Trial which is known as Class A.

For this, Justice Radha Binod Pal became a celebrated Hero of Japan. A Japanese National Hero Memorial was made in his honour. 8 million Japanese visit every year the shrine of his memorial.



Justice Radha Binod Pal



National Hero Memorial



The Memorial Shrine

The Emperor of Japan, conferred on Justice Radha Binod Pal, the 1st class of the order of the sacred treasures, Japan's greatest civilian honour, in the year 1966.



The Emperor of Japan



First Class of the Order of treasures award

Junichi Koizumi, the Prime Minister of Japan from 2001 to 2006 had said during his tenure:



Junichi Koizumi

“The dissenting judgement of Justice Radha Binod Pal is well known to the Japanese people and will always symbolize the affection and regard Japan has for your country.”

JAPAN – TAMIL BOND

While Japan and India have shared cultural ties over the millennia, there are many pointers to a deep rooted bond between the Tamil culture of India and Japanese culture which seems to go way back in time. These range from commonality in festivals to customs as well as language construct.

Spring Festival – Similarity of Act

One of the most popular festival season in Japan is Spring time. Besides the world renowned event of the Sakura bloom, i.e blossoming of the Cherry Blossom trees, this is the season that Japanese over ages have celebrated as a thanksgiving time and the way they have expressed it is by conducting fire walking rituals to cleanse body and mind.



A Buddhist Monk walk barefoot on fire embers at Yakuoin Temple



Yakuoin Temple, Hachioji, Tokyo

The Tamils too celebrate this season as the wedding season of their Gods. It is when the popular Tamil divinity Muruga or Karthikeya gets married. This is celebrated as Panguni Uthiram and as part of thanksgiving during this festival, the Tamils undertake fire walks as well.



Firewalking in Tamil Land

Similar ritual, similar reason, same season!

Kolu and Hina Matsuri – Similarity of Thought and Expression

Come Autumn, it is time in India for Navaratri, a 9 day long festival to herald the change in season. It is a time for celebration and invocation of the 3 female divinities, embodiment of different forms of energies, to prepare one mentally and physically for the oncoming change when nights will be longer than the day. Days will be colder too.

In the Tamil land, this festival is celebrated in honour of young girls and women, embodiment of these 3 female divinities. The highlight of this festival is the exhibition of dolls arranged thematically in steps which should be odd in number.

Young girls and women are invited to each other's homes and honoured with special varieties of food and gifts.



**Kolu Dolls arranged in steps
in Tamil Nadu**



**Hina Matsuri dolls in steps
in Japan**

In Japan, it is come Spring instead, when one gets to see similar arrangement of dolls in houses and public places. The dolls are arranged here in honour of the Emperor, Empress and the girl child of the house. Prayers are made for the health and well being of the girl child. It is interesting that the number of steps can be a maximum of 7.

Similar thought, similar expression, similar choice of a time window of seasonal change.

Noboru Karishma – Language Similarity

Noboru Karishma is a Japanese scholar who carried out extensive research on South Indian, especially the Tamil culture. He played a vital role in strengthening Indo-Japanese cultural ties.



Prof Noboru Karishma

This scholar through his works brings out the similarity in the language construct between Tamil and Japanese languages.

He is considered one of the foremost of international Tamil scholars. He has been awarded the Padma Shri, a high Indian civilian award, for his contribution to the understanding of Tamil literature worldwide. At world Tamil conference, he has been accorded due respect as *'one of the leading scholars of Tamil of our times'*.

KAIZEN IN RETURN FOR ZEN

While India gave Zen to Japan many millennia ago, Japan in turn has given Kaizen to India in this century.



Many manufacturing industries of India in the last couple of decades have adopted Japan's fail proof quality assurance process of Kaizen which Japan has been happy to share with India.

HARD AND SOFT

Japan supplies hardware to the world with its legacy of the Samurai warriors and the present technological prowess, it has worked hard to possess. In the present times, Japan has been the forerunner of the manufacturing sector and is known for its high quality produce. It virtually holds a monopoly in this space.

India supplies software to the world with its legacy of *Rishi* and knowledge. In the present times, India has been the forerunner of the services sector and is known for its large numbers of intellectually skilled as well as manually skilled workforce. It virtually holds a monopoly in this space.

Both Japan and India have thus conquered the world softly from their own quarters without using might.

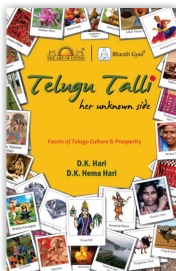
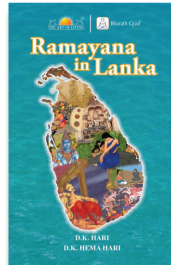
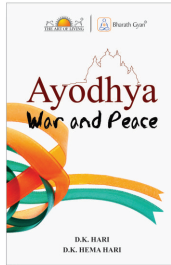
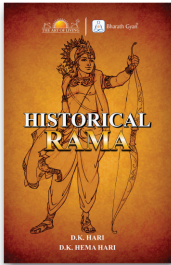
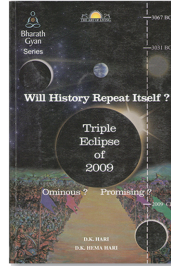
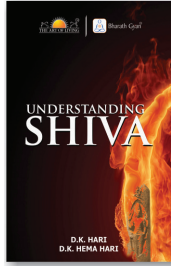
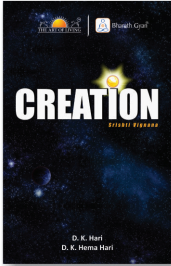
Both Japan and India share similar value systems of respect, culture, family and peace.

Coming together, they can do wonders for themselves and the world!

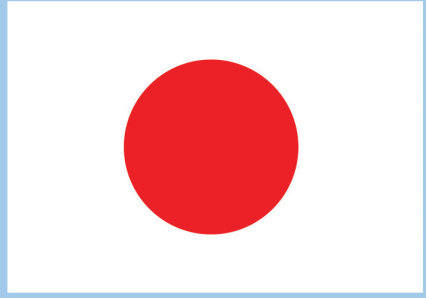


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Indo - Japan Connect

Tracing the connect between two lands separated by the sea but sharing similar values of respect, culture, peace.

A connect that started a couple of millennia ago with

Buddhism and Samskrt,

Spread to knowledge, sports, botony,

Linked by subtle similarity in tradition,

Rooted by similar language constructs,

Revived with sharing of technologies ,

Integrating hard and soft powers ,

into the modern era.



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